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The Armory Artistically Decorated With Plants and Bunting—A Gay Throng of Fair Women and Brave Men in Handsome Costumes in Attendance.

The National Rifles scored another social success in the large and fashionable gathering at their at home reception Thursday evening. Eight hundred invitations had been issued, to which six hundred responses came in person, and formed a galaxy of beauty and brilliancy seldom seen. At 9 o'clock the gallant Rifles entered the grand salon, headed by Lieut. Evans, chairman of the general committee. The latter gave the signal to on with the march, and at once the large gathering formed in line and encircled the room several times, keeping time to the strains of the march of the "Vienna Dudes," as rendered by the excellent orchestra, under the leadership of Professor Louis Weber. It was a particularly striking and beautiful gathering, embracing a large percentage of those in the social whirl of the National Capital. The costumes of the ladies were rich and elegant, and harmonized well with the military uniforms of the red-coated Rifles, blue and gold of the Fencibles, the regulation blue of the Old Guard veterans, and natty full dress of the officers of the National Guard, which largely outnumbered the conventional evening dress of the citizens. The large ball-room was artistically decorated and presented to the eyes a lovely and enchanting scene. J. H. Small & Sons and Julius Lansburgh joined forces in these decorations and together made such an effective display as to win praise and compliments from all present. The front of the stage and stairway leading to the same were banked with choice potted plants, ferns, etc., while the rear of the stage was set for a drawing-room, about which was arranged choice draperies, rugs, floor furniture, bric-a-brac, etc. The front of the stage was curtained with the national colors gracefully looped to the sides. The programme of dancing had engraved on the front page the Rifles' coat of arms. It contained 100 names, 50 from the latest "Andalusia" to the old-fashioned quadrille. It was 1 o'clock when the music ceased to play. The time of departure had arrived, and the smiling and happy faces of the guests with regret, yet feeling content that they had scored another great social triumph. Judging from the numerous compliments received by the Rifles from their guests as they took their departure, they have every reason to feel happy over their latest social success. The committee of arrangements, consisting of Lieut. George W. Evans, chairman; Lieut. David Anderson, Miss Anisworth, Miss Allison, Major and Mrs. Fred Brackett, Miss Brackett, Dr. Brightwell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Boutelle, Mrs. W. P. Boteler, Miss Bailey, Misses Mamie and Will Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Babcock, Misses Babcock, Barker, Barstow, C. 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